

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 477

By Green

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Five Kenneth D. Poindexter on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in honoring those members of the United States military who, throughout their distinguished careers, have served with honor, bravery, and an unswerving commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Kenneth D. Poindexter of the United States Army, who is retiring after thirty-six years of exemplary service as a special operations aviator; and

WHEREAS, both in peacetime and war, CW5 Poindexter has distinguished himself while serving in numerous assignments between March 2006 and March 2016; and

WHEREAS, he is an outstanding officer, soldier, and leader whose extraordinary example of military service is worthy of emulation by all, and his exceptional performance, professionalism, and dedicated service have made and will continue to make a significant impact on Army Aviation for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Poindexter distinguished himself as a member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) by serving in a myriad of critical technical and leadership positions, ranging from MH-60 Assault Flight Lead, MH-60 Maintenance Test Pilot, two different tours as a Senior Standardization Pilot in two different battalions, and culminating as the 2-160th Battalion Senior Warrant Officer to the Commander; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his assigned duties, CW5 Poindexter was a critical personality in two major initiatives over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the first initiative was ushering the MH-60M model aircraft into the regiment to replace the MH-60 Lima and Kilo fleets; his work designing aircrew transition training

programs helped the regiment replace its aging fleet without sacrificing combat obligations, and additionally, CW5 Poindexter flew the first MH-60M in conflict; and

WHEREAS, the second initiative was standing up Charlie Company, 2-160th; his work and sacrifice of time and energy accelerated the timeline of standing up this company from the ground up in order to meet the insatiable appetite of SOF rotary wing air power; and

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, CW5 Poindexter has deployed multiple times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, the CENTCOM Crisis Response Element, and Operation Inherent Resolve; and

WHEREAS, as a Night Stalker, CW5 Poindexter answered the call for our nation's most demanding tasks; he was instrumental in developing MH-60 tactics, techniques, and procedures, and most notably, he was an influential member of the standardization team that developed the Dynamic Vehicle Targeting (DVT) task, which has proved to be an incredibly effective and lethal task supporting ground forces in USSOCOM; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Poindexter has multiple awards and decorations for performance in both combat and peacetime operations; he is a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the Air Medal (fourteen awards), the Air Medal with Valor (two awards), the Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal (9 OLC), and he also has received the Presidential Unit Citation (two awards), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Award, AGCM, MCGCM, NDSM, AFEM, SWASM, NDS (two awards), Afghanistan Campaign Medal-Campaign Star (four), Iraqi Campaign Medal-Campaign Star (two), Global War on Terror Expeditionary and Service Awards, AFSM, HSM, NMCOS, ASR, OSR (two awards), and the NATO Medal; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Poindexter also possesses the Combat Action Badge and the Master Army Aviation Badge and has been honored with the Legion of Merit; and

WHEREAS, our country and its citizens will forever be in debt to CW5 Poindexter for his selfless service; his work has been instrumental to the special operations aviation community, and his operational focus serves as a role model for all junior soldiers and aviators; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Poindexter's accomplishments, dedication to selfless service, and his exceptional leadership and organizational skills set him well above his peers, reflecting great credit upon himself, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), and the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his military service, CW5 Poindexter found time to balance years of continuous volunteer work through his church mission group and earned a master's degree in family studies from Kansas State University; and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied career, CW5 Poindexter has served these United States with honor and distinction, and it is wholly fitting that this General Assembly recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from military service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chief Warrant Officer Five Kenneth D. Poindexter on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army, extending our gratitude for his many years of courageous service and our best wishes for his every future happiness and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.